GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:207
ANSWERED ON:11.03.2016
Indecency in Reality Shows
Malviya Prof. Chintamani

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken note of vulgarity and indecency in realty shows being telecast by various Television channels in the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government has received a number of complaints in this regard during the last three years and the current year, if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon; and

(c) whether the Government has issued any guidelines to curb the said trend in reality shows, if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE; THE MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY)

(a) to (c): A statement is laid on the table of the House.

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STATEMENT AS REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION No. 207 FOR ANSWER ON 11.03.2016

(a) & (b): The content telecast on private satellite TV channels including reality shows of different genres is regulated under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and Cable Television Network Rules, 1994 framed thereunder. The Act does not provide for pre-censorship of any programmes and advertisements telecast on such TV channels. However, it prescribes that all programmes and advertisements on such TV channels should be in conformity with the prescribed Programme Code and Advertising Code enshrined in the Act and the rules framed thereunder, which contains a whole range of principles to be followed by these TV channels including the reality shows carried thereon. The Programme Code, inter-alia, provides that no programme should be carried in the Cable Service which (i) offends against good taste or decency; (ii) contains anything obscene, defamatory, deliberate, false and suggestive innuendos and half truths; and (iii) denigrates women through the depiction in any manner of the figure of a women, her form or body or any part thereof in such a way as to have the effect of being indecent, or derogatory to women, or is likely to deprave, corrupt or injure the public morality or morals. Action is taken against defaulting channels whenever any violation of the said codes is noticed or brought to the notice of the Ministry.

The Government has set up Electronic Media Monitoring Centre (EMMC) to review the content of private TV channels in the contest of violation(s) of Programme and Advertising Codes.

An Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) has also been set up in the Ministry to look into the specific complaints or suo-motu take cognizance against the violation of Programme and Advertising Codes and appropriate action is taken as per Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995, if any violation if established. The details of action taken against the reality shows telecast on TV channels in violation of the Programme and Advertising Codes during the last three years and the current year is enclosed at Annexure.

This Ministry also issues advisories to TV channels from time to time on various issues, which are also relevant to reality shows. These are available at Ministry's website: www.mib.nic.in. In addition, National Commission for Protection of Child Rights' (NCPCR) has formulated the 'Guidelines for Media Reporting on Children' which have been circulated by this Ministry among all TV channels/NBA/IBF on 23.11.2012. The guidelines, inter-alia, lay down provisions to be followed by broadcasters/producers in case child participants are taken in their shows.
Besides, as part of its self-regulating mechanism, Indian Broadcasting Foundation (IBF), which is a representative body of non-news & current affairs TV channels, has set up Broadcasting Content Complaints Council (BCCC) headed by Shri Mukul Mudgal retired judge of Hon'ble High Court to examine complaints about television programmes. BCCC has also issued some Advisories on various issues related to reality shows to their member channels, which are available at their website i.e. www.ibfindia.com.

(c): There is no such proposal as the existing provisions contained in the Programme & Advertising Codes and the existing mechanism are considered adequate to regulate content including reality shows on TV channels.

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